Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

අධ්‍යයන පොදු සහතික පත්‍ර (උසස් පෙළ) විභාගය, 2015 අගෝස්තු
கல்விப் பொதுத் தராதரப் பத்திர (உயர் தர)ப் பரீட்சை, 2015 ஓகஸ்ற்
General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level) Examination, August 2015

සාමාන්‍ය ඉංග්‍රීසි I
பொது ஆங்கிலம் I
General English I

13 E I

පැය තුනයි
மூன்று மணித்தியாலம்
Three hours

Index No. : ....

For Examiner's Use Only	
Part	Marks
A	
B	
C	
D	
Total Paper I	

Instructions:

- * *Answer **all** questions on this paper itself.*
- * *Marks will be deducted for bad punctuation (Omission of full stops, capital letters, etc.) and for mistakes in basic grammar. (The supervisor will provide you with sheets for rough work.)*

Code Numbers

Marking Examiner	
Marks Checked by	1
	2
Supervised by	

For examiner's use only

PART A – GRAMMAR (40 marks)

I. Fill in each blank with a suitable **preposition** from the list given below. Use each preposition only **once**. There is one preposition extra. **(05 marks)**

by	for	of	in	over	into

An aspiring politician had a speech written out (1) .... him by a friend who included instructions (2) .... the manuscript for the speaker.

The would be politician duly delivered the speech and a loud applause was given to a statement he read out. Then he turned (3) .... a page and immediately shocked the audience (4) .... adding, "Here pause and take a sip (5) .... water."

Q. I ___ 5

II. Fill in each blank with the correct form of the **verb** given in brackets. **(10 marks)**

Two magistrates were doing the rounds together at night when they (1) .... (stop) by a policeman for some negligence and (2) .... (give) summons. They were duly charged and when the cases (3) .... (come) up for hearing the next day, they agreed that each (4) .... (leave) the bench in turn (5) .... (have) their cases (6) .... (hear) by the other.

The first went to trial, (7) .... (plead) guilty and (8) .... promptly .... (fine) Rs. 50/-. When they changed places, the second magistrate, after pleading guilty, was rather shocked (9) .... (receive) a fine of Rs. 100/-. "That's a bit unfair," he complained. "I know, but there's too much of this sort of thing going on; this is the second case we (10) .... (have) today", said the first magistrate.

Q. II ___ 10

[See page two

For examiner's use only

III. Construct **questions** to get the words in bold print as answers. **(05 marks)**

(1) Sita is **ten years** old.

....?

(2) Mala has lived in that village **for fifteen years**.

....?

(3) It cost Rohan **fifteen lakhs** to build his house.

....?

(4) The thief hid the stolen goods **in a cave**.

....?

(5) Mr. Silva gave his daughter **a beautiful sari** for her birthday.

....?

Q. III | 5

IV. Complete the following sentences by putting the words in brackets **in the correct order** to make meaningful sentences. **(05 marks)**

(1) This is ....
(a / the / stranger / which / dog / yesterday / bit)

(2) A penguin ....
(about / swim / thirty / can / an / kilometers / hour)

(3) He asked me ....
(brother / passed / whether / my / had / examination / the)

(4) As soon as ....
(left / message / for / Kumudu / the / got / she / Kandy)

(5) She is such ....
(that / everybody / nice / likes / girl / her / a)

Q. IV | 5

V. **Fill in each blank with a suitable word from the list given below. There is one word extra. (15 marks)**

effort,	**theatre,**	**couple,**	**time,**	**two,**	**they,**	**show,**	**the,**
unknown,	**table,**	**house,**	**handwriting,**	**that,**	**of,**	**card,**	**guess**

The newlyweds had received many valuable wedding gifts and they settled down in a suburb. One morning (1) .... received in the mail (2) .... tickets for a popular (3) .... in the city. The (4) .... said, "Guess who?" The (5) .... tried to identify (6) .... donor, but failed in the (7) ....

They duly attended the (8) .... and had a delightful (9) ....

On their return late (10) .... night, after trying to (11) .... the identity of the (12) .... host, they found their (13) .... stripped of every valuable article.

On a bare (14) .... in the dining room was a card written in the same (15) .... as with the enclosure with the ticket: "Now you know."

Q. V | 15

PART-A | 40

[See page three

For examiner's use only

PART B - COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

I. Of the options given below each sentence in bold print, **underline** the one that best expresses its meaning. **(05 marks)**

(1) **We rang the bell again in case they hadn't heard it the first time.**
- (i) They heard the bell the first time we rang it.
- (ii) We rang the bell twice and they heard it.
- (iii) Thinking that they would not have heard the first bell, we rang it again.
- (iv) Though we rang the bell twice, they did not hear it.

(2) **Had his bus been on time, he would not have missed the interview.**
- (i) The bus was punctual and he went for the interview.
- (ii) Although the bus was late, he was able to go for the interview.
- (iii) The bus was punctual but he missed the interview.
- (iv) He did not face the interview as the bus was late.

(3) **Making a special statement with the permission of the Chairman, Mr. Premasiri said that he would no longer be the treasurer.**
- (i) Mr. Premasiri will continue to function as the treasurer.
- (ii) The Chairman declared that Mr. Premasiri would be the treasurer.
- (iii) Mr. Premasiri did not wish to continue as the treasurer.
- (iv) The Chairman permitted Mr. Premasiri to be the treasurer for a long time.

(4) **At first Raheema did not want to go to the theatre but she came with us at the end.**
- (i) Since Raheema did not want to go to the theatre with us, she went on her own.
- (ii) Raheema was willing to go to the theatre from the beginning.
- (iii) Though Raheema went to the theatre, we didn't go.
- (iv) Although Raheema hesitated to go to the theatre at first, she joined us finally.

(5) **The weather was extremely bad and this prevented us from going out.**
- (i) We went out before the weather was bad.
- (ii) Though the weather was bad we wanted to go out.
- (iii) We could not go out due to the bad weather.
- (iv) The bad weather did not prevent us from going out.

Q. I

5

II. Read the following advertisement and do the activities that follow. **(05 marks)**

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR CCCLINE 1333

FREE TELEPHONE COUNSELLING SERVICE

CCCline is a toll free telephone counselling service, providing emotional support to anyone who is facing a difficulty and would like to speak to a professional for support.

We are now recruiting volunteers to support our effort and would like to hear from you if you fulfil the below mentioned criteria, and can dedicate some time to help another in need.

- Being a courageous, compassionate and committed individual
- Willingness to volunteer on a shift basis between 9.00 am – 9.00 pm (3 shifts per day as 9.00 am – 1.00 pm, 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm and 5.00 pm – 9.00 pm)
- Open to listen to a person who needs emotional support
- Residing close to Colombo
- Ability to communicate both in Sinhala and Tamil would be an added advantage.

Come and join to volunteer with us!

Tel: 011-2739810 (Monday-Friday 9.00 am–5.00 pm)

Send your CV to: cccfoundation1333@gmail.com

On or before 5th September 2015

An initiative of the CCC Foundation

[See page four

For examiner's use only

(1) Write short answers to the following questions.

(a) What is the purpose of the CCCline 1333?

....

(b) Write the name of the organization that has started the CCCline 1333 service.

....

(2) Based on the information in the text, write **True** or **False** in the space provided beside each sentence.

(a) People who call CCCline 1333 will be charged for the call. (...............)

(b) Selected applicants will be paid an allowance. (...............)

Q. II

5

(3) Write **one** word from the passage which means the same as the given word.

devoted ....

III. Read the following poem and answer the questions by **underlining** the most appropriate option. **(05 marks)**

Gone

Emotions ran through my head
I found myself wishing I was dead
All because you were moving away
I knew I would never see you another day

You got into your car and waved goodbye
and then I was left all alone to cry
I felt helpless, and all alone
I could only talk to you on the phone

You were my neighbour, and my best friend
Why, Oh why did **it** have to end?
You made me so happy, so **carefree**
You made it feel okay for me to be me

It's been almost a year since you moved away
but it feels like it was only yesterday
I remember everything you used to do
It may seem impossible, but it's true

You were the best friend I ever had
Now that you left me, I am beyond sad
I love and I miss you more than you ever knew
You've taught me so much, and I want to say thank you

(*Stephanie M. Wendorf*)

(1) "I found myself wishing I was dead" means that

(i) the poet died because he/she couldn't bear to be separated from his/her friend.

(ii) the poet attempted to commit suicide because he/she was so depressed.

(iii) the poet decided to take his/her life due to depression.

(iv) the poet realised he/she preferred to die rather than live.

(2) Which of the following is **not** true?

(i) The poet's friend left the neighbourhood.

(ii) The poet could not even speak with the friend over the phone.

(iii) The poet knew that he/she would never see the friend.

(iv) The poet was emotionally disturbed.

(3) To which of the following does '**it**' in stanza 3, line 2 refer?

(i) sorrow (ii) friendship (iii) love (iv) meeting

[See page five

For examiner's use only

(4) Which of the following is true?

(i) The poet's friend was his favourite teacher.

(ii) The friend knew well how much the poet loved him/her.

(iii) The poet's friend had genuine qualities of a true friend.

(iv) All what the friend had told were impossible things to do.

(5) The word **'carefree'** in the poem means

(i) full of care.

(ii) ignorant.

(iii) disinterested.

(iv) without having worries.

Q. III [ ] 5

IV Read the following text and do the activity that follows. **(05 marks)**

Mother's Love

My mother had only one eye. I hated her........ She was such an embarrassment. She cooked for students and teachers to support the family. One day during elementary school when my mother came to say hello to me, I was so embarrassed. How could she do this to me? I ignored her, threw her a hateful look and ran out. The next day at school one of my classmates said, 'EEEE, your mother has only one eye!' I wanted to bury myself. I also wanted my mother to just disappear... I confronted her that day and said, 'If you're only going to make me a laughing stock, why don't you just die?' She did not respond... I didn't even stop to think for a second about what I had said, because I was full of anger. I was oblivious to her feelings. I wanted to go out of that house, and have nothing to do with her. So I studied really hard and got a chance to go abroad to study.

Then, I got married. I bought a house of my own. I had kids of my own. I was happy with my life, my kids and the comforts. Then one day, my mother came to visit me. She hadn't seen me in years and she hadn't even met her grandchildren. When she stood by the door, my children laughed at her, and I yelled at her for coming over uninvited. I screamed at her, "How dare you come to my house and scare my children! GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!!!"

And to this, my mother quietly answered, 'Oh, I'm so sorry. I may have got the wrong address' and she disappeared out of sight. One day, a letter regarding a school reunion came to my house. I lied to my wife that I was going on a business trip and went for it. After the reunion, I went to the old shack just out of curiosity. My neighbours said that she had died. I did not shed a single tear. They handed me a letter that she had wanted me to have.

My dearest son,

I think of you all the time. I'm sorry that I came to your house and scared your children. I was so glad when I heard you were coming for the reunion. But I may not be able to even get out of bed to see you. I'm sorry that I was a constant embarrassment to you when you were growing up. You see... when you were very little, you met with an accident and lost your eye. As a mother, I couldn't stand watching you having to grow up with one eye. So I gave you mine. I was so proud of my son who was seeing a whole new world for me in my place with that eye.

With all my love to you,

Your mother.

Write **True** or **False** in the space provided beside each statement.

(a) The mother earned money to run the family by preparing meals for the students and teachers. (............)

(b) The son scolded his mother when she visited him at the elementary school. (............)

(c) The son scolded his mother because she came to frighten the children. (............)

(d) The son most probably wanted to see his mother when he went for the reunion. (............)

(e) The son had not known how his mother lost her eye until he read the letter. (............)

Q. IV [ ] 5

PART - B [ ] 20

[See page six

For examiner's use only

❑ PART C - **SUMMARISING (10 marks)**

I. Write a **summary** of the following text. You may **use any number of sentences** but **do not use more than twenty (20) words.** If you **exceed the word limit**, you **will not get any marks** for this summary. Write only **one** word in each cage. **(03 marks)**

A speaker well-known for his long, boring speeches was invited for a meeting. As he started speaking, one by one, many people in the audience left the hall. Finally, there was only one person left. The speaker was surprised and asked him why he alone waited. The person answered, "I am the next speaker."

Q. I
C -
L -
3

II. Write a **summary** of the following text. You may **use any number of sentences** but **do not use more than fifty (50) words.** If you **exceed the word limit**, you **will not get any marks** for this summary. Write only **one** word in each cage. **(07 marks)**

A man was going up to bed, when his wife told him he'd left the light on in the garden shed – she could see it from the bedroom window. But he said that he hadn't been in the shed that day. He looked, and there were men in the shed, stealing things. He rang the police, but they told him that no one was in his area, so no one was available to catch the thieves.

He said OK, hung up, counted to 30 and rang the police again. "Hello. I just rang you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now, I've just shot them all."

Within five minutes there were half a dozen police cars in the area and an Armed Response Unit. Of course, they caught the burglars red-handed. One of the policemen said to this man: "I thought you said you'd shot them!"

He replied, "I thought you said there was no one available!"

Q. II
C -
L -
7

PART - C
10

[See page seven

For examiner's use only

❏ PART D - **WRITING** (30 marks)

1. Imagine it rained heavily in your village causing a lot of damage to several houses, paddy-fields, and the main road. Write a letter to a friend, describing what happened and what you and the other people in the village did. Use about **125-150** words. Do **not** exceed this word limit. **(15 marks)**

Q. I

C -

L -

15

II. You have been selected to the University of Ruhuna.

Write a letter to Senior Assistant Secretary (University Admissions) of the University Grants Commission, making a request with valid reasons to transfer you to the University of Colombo. Use about **125 - 150** words. Do **not** exceed this word limit. **(15 marks)**

For examiner's use only

Q. II

F -
C -
L -
O -

15

PART - D

30

***

ශ්‍රී ලංකා විභාග දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව
இலங்கைப் பரீட்சைத் திணைக்களம்
Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

අධ්‍යයන පොදු සහතික පත්‍ර (උසස් පෙළ) විභාගය, 2015 අගෝස්තු
கல்விப் பொதுத் தராதரப் பத்திர (உயர் தர)ப் பரீட்சை, 2015 ஓகஸ்ற்
General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level) Examination, August 2015

සාමාන්‍ය ඉංග්‍රීසි II
பொது ஆங்கிலம் II
General English II

13 E II

පැය දෙකයි මිනිත්තු තිහයි
இரண்டரை மணித்தியாலம்
Two and a half hours

For Examiner's Use Only	
Part	Marks
A	
B	
C	
D	
Total Paper II	
Paper I	
Total Paper I & II	

Index No. : ....

Code Numbers

Marking Examiner	
Marks Checked by	1
	2
Supervised by	

Final Marks

In Numbers	
In Letters	

※ *Answer **all** questions **on this paper** itself.*

※ *Marks will be deducted for bad punctuation (omission of full stops, capital letters, etc.) and for mistakes in basic grammar. (The supervisor will provide you with sheets for rough work.)*

❑ PART A – VOCABULARY (25 marks)

For examiner's use only

I. **Underline** the correct **word ending** selecting from those given in brackets. **(05 marks)**

(1) I am in this position today because of the guid........... (e, ing, ance) given by my parents.

(2) Union leaders have called for the partici......... (pation, pate, pating) of all members in the May Day rally.

(3) My friend is interest......... (ing, ed, ingly) in reading detective stories.

(4) That he escaped with such minor injuries in this accident is a mira...... (culous, culously, cle).

(5) His suit......... (able, ability, ably) to this important post is questionable.

Q. I — 5

II. From the word or words given in brackets, **underline** the word or words closest in meaning to the words in **bold print** as they appear in the following texts. **(10 marks)**

(1) Cheques have largely replaced money as a means of exchange, for they are widely accepted everywhere. Though it is very **convenient** (comfortable, readily accepted, saving time and effort) for both buyer and seller, it should not be forgotten that cheques are not real money.

(2) The children asked their mother to make cup cake for tea. But she refused saying that she had a **tremendous** (very great, very important, very difficult) amount of work to finish before evening. However, she promised to make the cup cakes the next day.

(3) On my last visit to the hotel, the manager told me that I could have my usual room, but he added **apologetically** (warningly, nervously, regrettably) that I might find it a bit noisy.

(4) Now that smoking is **considered** (found, told, thought) to be very dangerous to one's health, it is especially difficult for children to buy cigarettes or tobacco.

(5) Old Sally Gibbs was a very **strange** (unknown, unusual, funny) woman. She lived in a beautiful house with a lovely garden, but she hardly went out. Though a servant looked after her, her only real companions were her two cats. For years she had refused to see any of her relations as she felt that all they were interested in was her money. When she died she left the whole of her wealth to her two cats!

(6) My parents had great **expectations** (felt very confident, felt very happy, guided very well) that I would become a famous lawyer. But I disappointed them by becoming a clerk in an office.

(7) When I joined this office I found the manager difficult to get on with. He had a very short temper and shouted at me for the slightest mistake I made. But soon I got **accustomed** (tolerated, used, annoyed) to his rude manner.

(8) My friend died under mysterious **circumstances** (condition, disease, accident). We all suspect foul play regarding this.

[See page two

For examiner's use only

(9) Our President is **currently** (very soon, at the same time, at the present time) in Pakistan. He is returning to Sri Lanka in two days.

(10) It is a **crime** (offence, foolish act, mistake) to waste money like this when people are suffering without a proper meal.

Q. II — 10

III. Select any **five** words from the list given below and use each of them in a meaningful sentence. You may use the verbs in any tense. You may use the plural form of the nouns. But do **not** change the form of the other words. **(05 marks)**

intellectual, potential, occasional, persist, depend, suggest, departure, variety, borrow, expensive

(1) ....

....

(2) ....

....

(3) ....

....

(4) ....

....

(5) ....

....

Q. III — 5

IV. **Underline** the most appropriate word from those given in brackets. **(05 marks)**

(1) This information will be (informed, communicated, said) to the relevant person.

(2) The minister's confidential (secretary, friend, wife) is on leave today.

(3) The (venue, situation, place) of the conference will be the auditorium.

(4) The manager alleged to have swindled the company was sent on compulsory (holiday, vacation, leave).

(5) After finishing her household (chores, painting, cooking) my mother watched TV.

Q. IV — 5

PART - A — 25

❑ PART B – DIALOGUES (25 marks)

I. How do you respond in each of the following situations? Write **one** sentence or question for each, beginning with the word/s given. **(05 marks)**

(1) You are trying to get to the public library but you are lost. Ask a police officer the way.

"Could you ....?"

(2) You have come for an interview for a job. During the interview, you are requested to ask anything you want to know about the job. Ask one thing.

"I'd ...."

(3) A friend of yours has forgotten where he has put his glasses. Offer to help him.

"Let ...."

(4) You are at the Annual General Meeting of the Literary Association of your school. It is time to appoint new office-bearers. Propose one of your friends as the President.

"I'd ...."

(5) It is the Annual Prize-giving of your school. You are the announcer. Invite your principal to deliver the welcome speech.

"I ...."

Q. I — 5

[See page three

For examiner's use only

II. You are at the receptionist desk of Katharagama Rest. Complete the missing parts of the dialogue between the receptionist and you. Do **not** use more than **two** sentences/questions in each blank. **(05 marks)**

Receptionist : "Can I help you?"

You : (1) " ....?"

Receptionist : "Yes, we have single rooms."

You : (2) " ....?"

Receptionist : "Two thousand rupees a night."

You : (3) " ....?"

Receptionist : "Yes, that's with meals."

You : (4) " ....?"

Receptionist : "Let me check. Yes, there's a room ready. It's room number 16. Our Room Assistant will take your bag and show you where it is."

You : (5) " ....?"

Receptionist : "You're welcome."

Q. II

5

III. You are going to buy a shirt for your father (brown, size 16). You are speaking to the salesman. Use the given guidelines and complete the dialogue between the two of you. **(05 marks)**

Salesman : "Good morning. Can I help you?"

You : "Good morning, I am looking for a shirt for my father."

Salesman : (1) "..?"

(asks the size)

You : (2) "..."

(respond appropriately)

Salesman : (3) "..."

(shows a blue shirt)

You : (4) "..."

(respond appropriately)

Salesman: "What about this one? It's only one thousand rupees. It will be good for your father, I think."

You : (5) "..."

(express your willingness to buy it)

Q. III

5

IV. You bring a letter from your school to your father with a request to permit you to attend a Sports Camp for six days. Your father does not like it but you want to go. Write out the conversation that takes place between your father and you. Each one should speak at least **five times.** **(10 marks)**

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

[See page four

....

....

....

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....

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....

....

....

....

....

....

For examiner's use only

Q. IV

F -
C -
L -
10

PART - B

25

PART C - COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

1. Read the following text and do the activities that follow. **(10 marks)**

Do we know if the food we consume is free of germs which can cause over 200 diseases ranging from diarrhoea to cancer? Every year diarrhoea caused by contaminated food and water kills 2.2 million people, including 1.9 million children globally. Unsafe food kills an estimated 700,000 children in South-East Asia every year.

Food safety is critical for public health as food-borne diseases affect people's health and well-being. Unsafe food creates a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting infants, young children, the elderly and the sick. Food-borne diseases impede socio-economic development by straining health care systems and adversely impacting national economies, tourism and trade. Since food passes through multiple hands from the farm to reach our plates, ensuring food safety requires multi-sectoral collaboration. The approach needs to be preventive to improve food safety and quality through application of good farming practices by using agro chemicals or veterinary drugs only in the prescribed amount. Good storage, transportation, retail and restaurant practices are equally important to make food safe.

Street foods are emerging as an important source of food for a large proportion of the population in urban and peri-urban settings. Street food as a source of food-borne diseases, therefore, assumes public health significance.

Countries need to have a comprehensive food safety policy, legislation and national food safety programmes encompassing all the sectors and aspects for food safety. Enforcement of food safety policies in the region remains a challenge. Food quality and safety standards are usually strictly followed for exportable food commodities, but not always enforced for food destined for the domestic market. Food safety and quality should be ensured through stringent control and inspection mechanisms for export as well as the domestic market.

Adapted from The Sunday Times - 5.4.2015

(1) Write short answers to the following questions.

(a) How many children are killed due to unhygienic food and water in South-East Asia annually?

....

(b) What good farming practices can contribute towards food safety?

....

(2) Based on the information in the text, write **True** or **False** in the space provided beside each sentence.

(a) Consumption of unsafe food and water kills 2.2 million people and 1.9 million children all over the world annually. (.........)

(b) Farmers alone are not responsible for ensuring food safety. (.........)

(c) South East Asian countries enforce equally strict food safety standards both for export and domestic use. (.........)

[See page five

For examiner's use only

(3) Complete the following sentences using the information given in the text. Do not write more than **three words** in each blank.

(a) Care must be given to food safety as people's health is affected by .... diseases.

(b) There are over 200 diseases such as diarrhoea and cancer due to .... in the food we consume.

(4) Write **one** word for each of the given blanks selecting from the passage, which means the same as the given words/phrases.

(a) polluted/infected with disease carrying substances ....

(b) decisive/crucial ....

(c) hinder/obstruct ....

Q.I	
1 -	
2 -	
3 -	
4 -	
	10

II. Read the following text and do the activities that follow. **(20 marks)**

The proposal to increase the expenditure on education from 1.3% to 6% is certainly good for the country given that the World Bank South Asia recently reported that the poor quality of education is holding back South Asia. No doubt, Sri Lanka needs a well-educated workforce if we are to sustain long periods of growth. Therefore, the universities would need to turn out their graduates with the hard and the soft skills employers want. To do **this**, all our key institutions have an obligation to work together to ramp up the skills of our nation's talent pool and for that **they** need to engage with employers to understand the skills and competencies our employees need now and in the future.

Many reasons have been given by very eminent people both in the public and the private sector at various forums regarding the unemployment and underemployment situation among the educated youth. The most important hypothesis is the prevalence of a skills mismatch where the education system is not providing what the labour market needs. Another explanation given is that the public sector employment and wage policies in the country lead to a queueing behaviour among the population for attractive jobs. A third hypothesis is the existence of stringent labour market regulations that prevents employment creation in the private sector. Even though we are aware of these challenges, graduate unemployment is still a huge problem in Sri Lanka. Despite many genuine attempts being made to bring about a solution to the problem, the attempts have largely failed because the current education and the skills development infrastructure both in the public and the private sectors have still not been re-oriented fully to improve the quality of education in the country.

Therefore, unless we make those fundamental changes within our education system in the country, the system will not deliver the numbers and quality desired and we will continue to have forum after forum to find solutions for graduate unemployment. So in the short-term, the private sector and the university system need to identify the current and future skills requirements and re-orient the curriculum based on the needs of the private sector. Next, the state needs to work with the education/training providers to re-orient the infrastructure to deliver the skills that the country requires. Many surveys have revealed that in general, university graduates lack the basic skills sought by employers. Hence, the government, the university administrators, employers and graduates themselves must all endeavour to find a practical solution to fill **this gap.** Today, despite many interventions, we are still confronted with three key issues; (a) our universities do not generate the required skills for the country, (b) our graduates lack knowledge about the reality of the labour market, and (c) many graduates prefer to join the public sector and be underemployed.

Therefore, in order to create more productive jobs for the educated, the private-public links need to be strengthened and the higher education system needs to be re-oriented to refocus from supply to demand.

(Adapted from *The Island* - 17.03.2015)

(1) Write a short answer to the following question.

What is the reason for the slow development of South Asia?

....

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For examiner's use only

(2) Write **True** or **False** in the space provided beside each sentence.

(a) Private sector employers have been discouraged from creating sufficient jobs by the rigid regulations in the labour market. (...........)

(b) Graduates are more attracted to private sector jobs than the government sector. (...........)

(c) No attempt has been made so far to find remedies for the graduate unemployment problem. (...........)

(3) **Underline** the most appropriate answer in each of the following.

(a) Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the 2nd paragraph?

(i) There is a mismatch between the skills provided by the education system and the labour market needs.

(ii) Many reasons have been attributed for the unemployment and underemployment problem among the educated youth.

(iii) Many educated youth wait for a long time until they get well paid jobs.

(iv) Many sincere attempts have been made to find a solution to the unemployment and underemployment problem.

(b) Which of the following is **not** true?

(i) Universities should produce graduates according to the demand of the job market.

(ii) It is necessary to change the education system through curriculum revisions to suit the job market needs.

(iii) The present graduates of our universities do not possess the hard and soft skills required.

(iv) World Bank South Asia recommended increasing the expenditure on education.

(c) The underlined phrase in the 3rd paragraph '**this gap**' refers to the gap between

(i) university administrators' needs and graduates' capabilities.

(ii) employers' needs and graduates' skills.

(iii) basic skills required and graduates' knowledge.

(iv) infrastructure available and skills needed.

(d) Which of the following is the most appropriate title to the above text?

(i) Creating private sector jobs for graduates

(ii) Increasing funds for higher education

(iii) Curriculum revision in university sector

(iv) Re-orienting university education for job market needs

(4) Fill in the blanks in the following passage, based on the information in the **3rd paragraph** of the text. Do **not** use more than **three** words in each blank.

According to many surveys, our graduates do not possess the basic skills the employers expect. Therefore, we must be ready to make a number of changes in the present (1) .... in order to gain desired outcomes. If such changes are not implemented, it is impossible to find a solution to the (2) .... problem. As the first step, the existing curriculum of our universities should be modified based on the requirements of the (3) .... Next, the government with the support of the education providers should re-orient the (4) .... to provide the youth the skills required by the labour market. However, it should also be noted that the graduates still prefer to be employed in the (5) .... sector and be underemployed.

(5) What do the pronouns in bold print in the 1st paragraph refer to?

(a) **this** ....

(b) **they** ....

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(6) Write one word for each blank selecting from the passage, which means the same as the given words/phrases.

(a) to maintain something for a long period ....

(b) being forced or required to do something ....

(c) skills and knowledge needed to perform a task ....

(d) distinguished or famous ....

(e) faced with ....

For examiner's use only
Q. II
1 -
2 -
3 -
4 -
5 -
6 -
Total
20
PART -C
30

PART D - WRITING (20 marks)

I. Write a paragraph **beginning** with the given sentence.
Use about **75-100** words. Do **not** exceed the word limit. Do **not** write more than **one** paragraph. **(05 marks)**

Death penalty is very important to control the rate of crime.

Q. I
C -
L -
5

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11. In some countries, school children have part-time jobs. Do you think this is a good idea to be practised among A/L students in Sri Lanka too? Write an essay in about **200** words. Do **not** exceed the word limit. **(15 marks)**

For examiner's use only

Q. 11

C -
L -
O -

15

PART -D

20

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